

# Presidential Initiative for Neglected Tropical Diseases

Christy Hanson, PhD, MPH Senior Public Health Advisor



#### **President's NTD Initiative**

- On February 20, President Bush announced a new \$350 million, five-year initiative to control, in an integrated manner, the seven NTDs that can be addressed through targeted mass drug administration
- The initiative begins in FY2009 and ends in FY2013.
- Integrated delivery of mass treatment as opposed to vertical programs
- Builds on USAID's existing integrated NTD program



### **USAID's Program**

- Since 2006, USAID has implemented a \$15 million / yr earmark to administer an integrated MDA program targeting the 7 NTDs
- In 2006, GH signed a competitively-awarded cooperative agreement with RTI to manage the program
- 80% of program funds go directly for field implementation
- In 2 years, the NTD program has provided 86 million treatments
- Project started in 5 countries
  - Burkina Faso, Ghana, Niger, Mali, Uganda
- Expanded through competitive, demand-driven grants to 5 additional countries
  - Haiti, Sierra Leone, southern Sudan (early 2008)



### **USAID's Program**

- Since 2006, USAID has implemented a \$15 million / yr earmark to administer an integrated MDA program targeting the 7 NTDs
- In 2006, GH signed a competitively-awarded cooperative agreement with RTI to manage the program
- 80% of program funds go directly for field implementation
- In 2 years, the NTD program has provided 86 million treatments
- Project started in 5 countries
  - Burkina Faso, Ghana, Niger, Mali, Uganda
- Expanded through competitive, demand-driven grants to 5 additional countries
  - Haiti, Sierra Leone, southern Sudan (early 2008)
  - Nepal, Bangladesh (Oct 2008)
- APOC: Tanzania, DRC



### **USAID's Program**

#### In addition to MDAs.....

- Continually refine integrated programming as a new technical approach
  - Learn lessons, evaluate what works
    - Looking within and beyond USAID-funded projects
  - Draw from and feed evidence into global / national policy
    - e.g., M&E tools and systems for integrated MDA
- Mobilize / leverage resources
  - G8
  - Partnering with pharmaceutical industry
  - Stimulate increased disease-endemic country-level investment
  - Ensure sustainability



#### **Expansion Plan for President's NTD Initiative**

 Target: to deliver 300 million treatments through integrated MDA in high burden countries in Africa, Asia, and LAC

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Number of countries covered	13	18	20	25	30
Funding plan	25	70	75	85	95
(\$ millions)					

- Expansion countries have not been selected
- Criteria will be established with a global stakeholder group
  - Need-based and demand-driven
  - Epidemiology, political commitment, feasibility, financing gap



### Implementation concepts

- Focus on expanding coverage of chemotherapy
  - All activities and research must directly contribute to reaching treatment targets and elimination/control aims
  - 80% of funding to MDA implementation
- Global: Africa, Asia and Latin America
- Capitalize on existing partnerships and platforms at country level
  - USG platforms: malaria, HIV/AIDS
  - Globally: RTI, APOC, WHO
  - Country-level: many local partners
- Demand and need-driven approaches to selecting countries needed
- Various types of grant making for implementation
- Ensure solid technical assistance
  - Globally: WHO and CDC in leading technical role
  - Existing networks of partners



### **Global context**

#### • G8

- USG spearheaded request to G8 countries to contribute additional resources to NTDs
- Declaration: "... including through the mass administration of drugs, we will be able to reach at least 75% of the people affected by certain major neglected tropical diseases in the most affected countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, bearing in mind the WHO Plan. With sustained action for 3-5 years, this would enable a very significant reduction of the current burden with the elimination of some of these diseases."



## Other donor support

- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- **UK:** £50 million commitment over the next five years to fight parasitic and bacterial tropical diseases
  - International Development Secretary Douglas Alexander said "Building upon President Bush's announcement in March of \$350 million and the G8 call in Japan, the UK is supporting the US President's efforts to control or eliminate several tropical diseases with a £50 million funding boost.
  - Includes £10 million for Guinea Worm eradication



#### Management inputs / processes

- Within USAID: Internal management group
  - Global Health, Africa, Asia and Latin America regional bureaus
- Within USG
  - 1. Coordination with USG agencies; HHS/CDC as key technical partner
    - Engage in technical / operational decisions
    - Guide operational/programmatic research agenda
  - 2. Task Force on Integration of NTDs with health and education platforms
    - First meeting 12 May: identify synergies, opportunities
      - Vitamin A, Malaria, PEPFAR, Immunizations, basic education, Peace Corps, earlier stage research (NIH)
- External: global Stakeholders group
  - Core group: USAID, HHS/CDC and WHO
  - First meeting 20-21 October: technical and operational guidance
  - NTD scientific community, Ministries of Health, pharmaceutical partners,
    NGO implementation partners, USG partners





- Use FY08 funding to begin preparing for scale-up
  - Scaling up to additional countries through RTI
  - Engage APOC
- Active discussions with pharmaceutical partners
  - Forecasting of demand
  - Potential support for expansion of donation programs
  - Potential support to PZQ manufacturing
- Stakeholders meeting
  - Country selection
  - M&E
  - Drug supply issues / solutions
  - Operational research
- Prepare new RFA(s) to open mechanism
- Plan implementation details

